

Constitutional Revision Committee on this suggestion of trying to provide some recreation where probably there is the greatest need and that is around Omaha.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to once again reiterate that the situation in terms of Loneragan Lake is one that the urban area desperately in need of recreational facilities. We have an energy crisis that we are all aware of and those facilities are going to have to be located closer and closer to where the people are. This facility, Loneragan Lake, is going to be purchased by the cost 2.2 million which HUD is asking for it, is going to be, or whatever purchase price that is managed by the NRD, is going to be paid by the Natural Resource District of the Omaha, Douglas County, Sarpy County and Washington County taxpayers. Most of those are urban taxpayers. It is a very conscious decision by the Natural Resource District in Omaha to say that, or the Natural Resource District in eastern Nebraska, to say that they are concerned and conscious of the problems of the urban taxpayer. Those people should have some benefit from the Natural Resource District legislation also. The Natural Resource District legislation, as you all remember, those of you that were here and voted on that legislation, has a prime responsibility of recreational facilities. Now it is kind of funny for me, an urban senator, to sit over here and listen to Senator Schmit, who has recreational facilities in his district, talk about how Omaha ought to be development and his district ought to be parks, and I think that is a pretty sad situation and I see Senator Lamb's concern, Senator Lamb with one of the largest geographical areas in the State of Nebraska, with numerous parks and recreational facilities, and his concern is that maybe the \$40,000 for development and operation at Loneragan Lake, the \$40,000 is going to syphon off substantial amounts of money from his parks and recreational facilities which are substantial, numerous and expansive, and I think that is a very selfish, self centered attitude on the Senator's part. I think the situation is clear. We are offering, the NRD is offering to purchase this and give it to the State of Nebraska. It is a good investment. If Nebraska just turned around tomorrow and sold the property, they could get more money than what they are going to have to pay for it because of the provisions that public entities have an opportunity to buy this property for what they have into it. And so I think it is an excellent investment, not only for the taxpayers of the great State of Nebraska, but also for the citizens of the urban area and I think that it is important that we should move on this. We should pass it today. The time frame in which we are working is limited. We need some decisions. We need to get these other public bodies moving. HUD is not going to hold this land up forever. We have got to move on it, and to refer it to committee, to waste time or just to vote it down is a travesty of justice and I think that Senator Lamb's proposal is exactly that and I hate to reiterate one more time that Senator Lamb's concern about the cost and development is rather unfair.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker and fellow members and